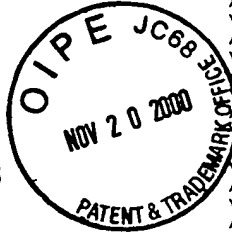


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3/
B
(N.E.)

In re Continuation Application of:)
MATENA, Vladimir)
Serial No.: 09/023,074)
Filed: February 13, 1998)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR RELIABLE DISK FENCING)
IN A MULTICOMPUTER)
SYSTEM)



Prior Application Data
Serial No. 08/552,316
Filed: November 2, 1995
Group Art Unit: 2785
Examiner: LE, Dieu-Minh Thai

RECEIVED

NOV 24 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-reference application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 14, 17, and 24 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preventing access to a shared peripheral device by a processor-based node in a multinode system, [including the steps of] comprising:
 - (1) storing at the peripheral device a first unique value representing a first configuration of the multinode system;
 - (2) sending an access request from the node to the device, the request including a second unique value representing a second configuration of the multi[-]node system;

LAW OFFICES

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